

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 OMB-01 L-03 PRS-01 PA-01 AF-10 ARA-06
EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 H-01 HEW-04 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 INT-05 /137 W
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O 281700Z APR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6917

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PASS LABOR FOR ILAB; COMMERCE FOR UPTON AND BDC/OBRA (DENTON)

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO METAL TRADES COMMITTEE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING
REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME

1. SUMMARY: SO FAR THE ONLY CONTROVERSIAL ITEM AT
SUBJECT MEETING HAS BEEN THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE
REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME WHICH WAS PASSED IN PLENARY
SESSION THIS MORNING IN SHOW OF HANDS VOTE (91-44-8)
BOTH U.S. WORKER, BEN SHARMAN AND INTERNATIONAL METAL
WORKERS FEDERATION GENERAL SECRETARY HERMAN REBHAN,
TOLD US DEL THEY WILL COMPLAIN IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE
OF SPLIT U.S. GOVERNMENT VOTE; TREMANTE VOTED AGAINST
AND FIATARONE ABSTAINED. TWXT OF RESOLUTION (SEE PARA
FOUR BELOW) SIMPLY CALLS UPON GOVERNING BODY TO CONDUCT
STUDIES ON POSSIBILITIES OF REDUCTION IN WORKING TIME.
END SUMMARY

2. SCENARIO: TEXT PRODUCED BY DRAFITNG COMMITTEE (DC)

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TUESDAY NIGHT WAS HARD FOUGHT COMPROMISE BY WORKERS AND
EMPLOYERS (USG WAS NOT MEMBER OF DC). FOLLOWING DAY
EMPLOYERS GROUP AT URGING OF LDC EMPLOYEES REJECTED
DC'S DRAFT RESOLUTION AND INTRODUCED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS
AT AFTERNOON SITTING OF STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH CAME
AS A SURPRISE TO WORKER AND GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF STEERING
COMMITTEE. AFTER PARA FIVE WAS AMENDED BY FRG

GOVERNMENT MEMBER TO READ "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THERE ARE COMPLAINTS THAT THERE IS A LACK OF PROGRESS..." (ORIGINAL VERSION READ: "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES THERE IS A LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS") THE EMPLOYERS SAID THEIR AMENDMENTS APPEARED TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THEY INTENDED TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION IN THE PLENARY SESSION. THIS ENDED DISCUSSION ON RESOLUTION BECAUSE GOVERNMENT AND WORKER REPS FAVORED DC DRAFT. U.S. GOVERNMENT MEMBER OF STEERING COMMITTEE, FIATARONE, HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE FRG AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION.

3. BEFORE PLENARY SESSION THIS MORNING, BOTH U.S. GOVERNMENT DELEGATES DECIDED TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. AFTER HEARING ARGUMENTS IN PLENARY SESSION, FIATARONE DECIDED TO ABSTAIN. REBHAN TOLD BOTH U.S. DELEGATES HE WOULD ASK UNITED AUTO WORKERS TO INQUIRE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT USDEL VOTE IN PLENARY. HE EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT USG VOTE IN PLENARY HAD BEEN SPLIT AND DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN STEERING COMMITTEE. SHARMAN MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT TO LABATT.

4. TEXT OF APPROVED RESOLUTION:

BEGIN TEXT:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME
SUBMITTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE
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THE METAL TRADES COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION,

HAVING MET IN GENEVA, IN ITS TENTH SESSION FROM 20 TO 28 APRIL 1977,

RECALLING RESOLUTION NO. 65 CONCERNING A REDUCTION IN HOURS OF WORK WITHOUT REDUCTION OF INCOME IN THE METAL TRADES, ADOPTED AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION IN 1965;

NOTING THAT THE REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS HAS, FROM BOTH AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POINT OF VIEW, INFLUENCED DEVELOPMENTS IN ALL SECTORS OF THE METAL TRADES;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THERE ARE COMPLAINTS THAT THERE IS A LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS;

ADOPTS THISDAY OF APRIL 1977 THE FOLLOWING RES-
OLUTION:

(1) THE METAL TRADES COMMITTEE INVITES THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE TO REQUEST THE DIRECT-
OR-GENERAL:

(A) TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROS-
PECTS, TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THEIR
IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY, AS WELL AS
THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMAN FACTORS RELEVANT TO
A REDUCTION OF WORKING TIME IN THE METAL TRADES;

(B) TO STUDY IN THAT CONNECTION THE VARIOUS FORMS IN WHICH
WORKING TIME REDUCTIONS COULD BE EFFECTED, TAKING INTO AC-
COUNT THE VARIOUS FORMS OF A SHORTER WORKING

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LIFE, A SHORTER WORKING YEAR, REDUCED MONTHLY, WEEKLY AND
DAILY HOURS, INCLUDING INTER ALIA EXTENSION OF REST
PERIODS, ARRANGEMENT OF WORKING HOURS FOR SHIFT WORK-
ERS AND REDUCTION OF OVERTIME.

(2) THE METAL TRADES COMMITTEE INVITES THE
GOVERNING BODY TO REQUEST THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO GIVE
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ENDEAVOURS AND
LEGISLATIVE MEASURES RESULTING IN A REDUCTION OF WORKING
TIME IN THE METAL TRADES AND TO REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THIS
FIELD TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE OF THE METAL TRADES
COMMITTEE.

END TEXT

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Message Attributes

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